

World Regions for the AP World History Exam!



Unit 1: up to 600 BCE

Of all the time periods covered in the AP World History curriculum, Foundations (8000 BCE - 600 CE) spans the largest number of years. It begins with an important Marker Event - the Neolithic Revolution - and ends after the fall of three major classical civilizations - Rome in the Mediterranean region, Han China, and the Gupta Empire of India.

Broad topics addressed in the Foundations time period are:

- Environmental and periodization issues
- Early development in agriculture and technology
- Basic cultural, political, and social features of early civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, Shang China, and Meso/South America
- The rise and fall of classical civilizations: Zhou and Han China, India (Gupta Empire), and Mediterranean civilizations (Greece and Rome)
- Major belief systems, including polytheism, Hinduism, Judaism, Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, and Christianity

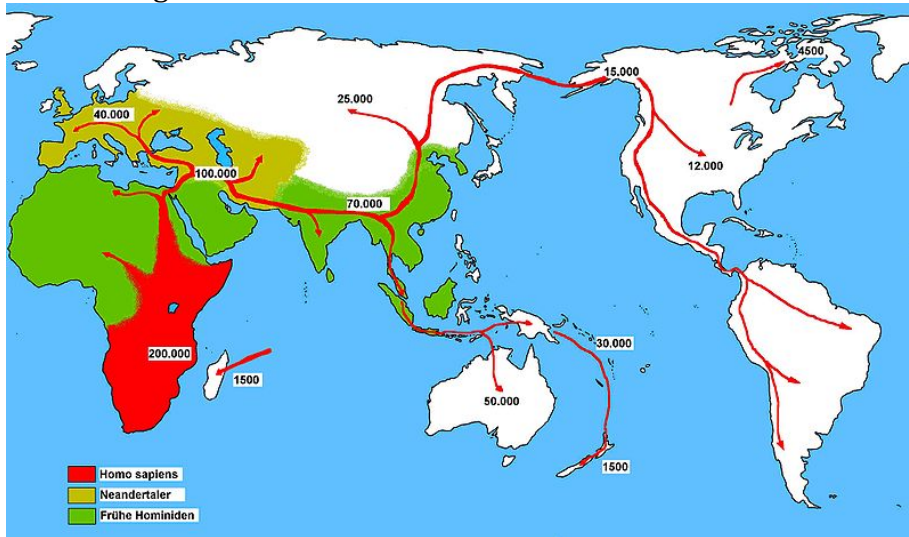
Changes

- Agriculture – Neolithic Revolution: ~11,000 YA
 - Paleolithic --> Neolithic
 - Social – cultural – political changes
 - Stratification – organization – hierarchy – patriarchy
 - Mesopotamia first
 - Independent invention elsewhere
 - Domestication → pastoralism
- First civilizations
 - What makes a civilization?
 - River valleys

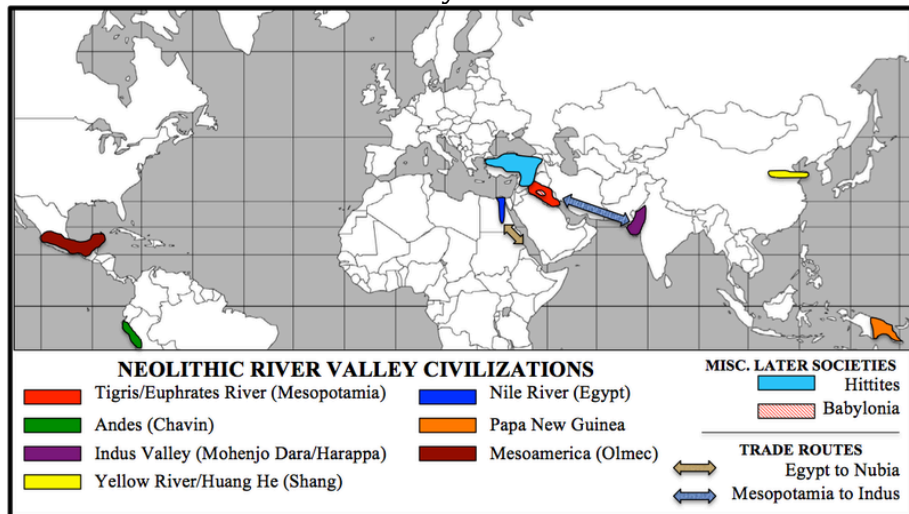
- Mesopotamia and Egypt: ~3000 BCE
 - China and India: ~2000 – 2500 BCE
 - America: ~1000 BCE
 - First political states and empires
 - Babylonian
 - Egyptian
 - Assyrian
 - Bronze Age → Iron Age: ~1100 BCE
- Changes of Neolithic Revolution:

- 1) Probably the most significant change that took place with the Neolithic revolution was a dramatic increase in population. More food could sustain more people living together.
 - 2) people needed to build permanent houses for protection and storing food
 - 3) People began to specialize in certain crafts, social divisions began, laborers/merchants
 - 4) Gender roles changed. Hunters and gatherers assigned similar roles to men and women.
- In the Neolithic revolution, the work that produced food became relegated to men, and household chores became the women's job.
Men came to be the dominant gen

Earliest Migrations of Humans out of Africa



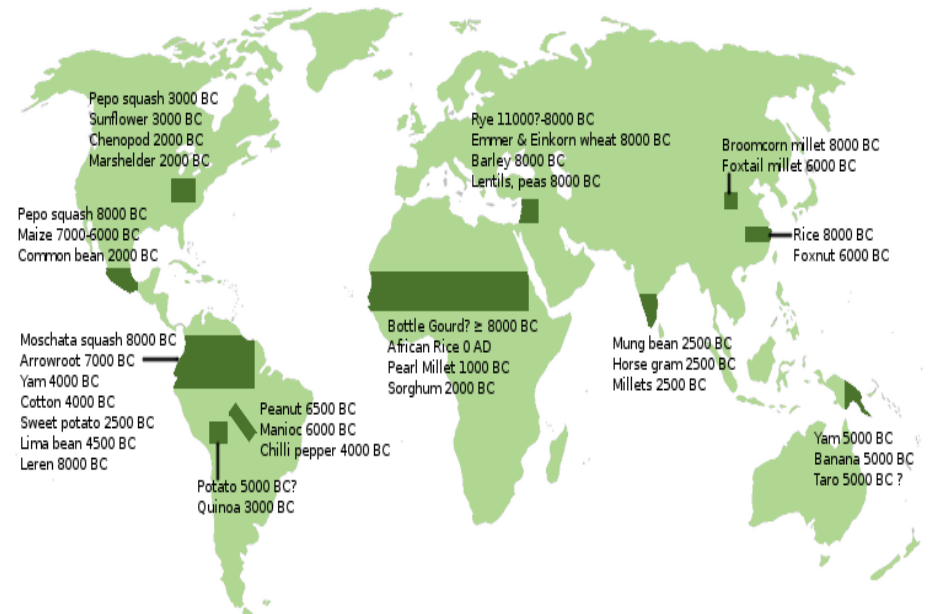
Neolithic Revolution River Valley Civilizations



Migrations to the Americas



First Agricultural Revolution

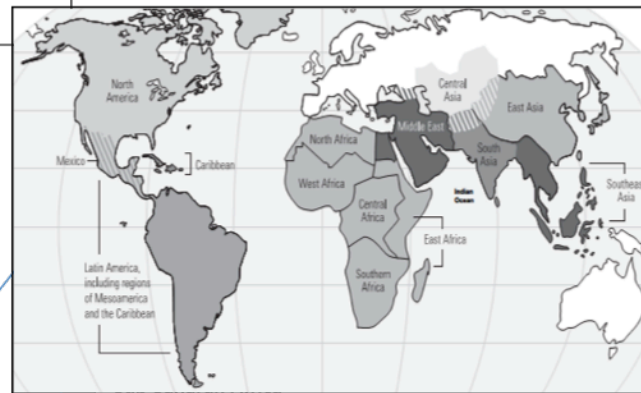


Western & Eastern Europe

Middle East & North Africa

East Asia

Mesoamerica



South & Southeast Asia

Andes Mountains

600 CE to 1450 CE

Snapshot

end of Eurasian Classical Period empires, except Byzantine Empire
Tang dynasty – peak, then decline of Buddhism in China
early Ghana Empire – first west African complex, urban culture
polytheistic and animist North Africa and Middle East
expanding transregional trade routes, interactions
early feudalistic, western Europe after fall of Western Roman Empire
relative cultural and technological backwater
continuing Polynesian migrations to Oceania
start of decline of Teotihuacán in Central Mexico
“Classical” period Mayan city-states
early “Classical Period” Anasazi culture in North America

Events and Patterns

origin and diffusion of Islam
Turkic conquest of India (creating Muslim, Delhi Sultanate)
rise and decline of Mali
diffusion of Indian mathematics to Arabs
Vikings exploration and dispersed settlements
infrastructure building (ie., Grand Canal in China)
new trading organizations (ie., Hanseatic League)
Swahili (Bantu and Arab) syncretism
Song China technology, iron and steel production
Mongol conquest of Song China, much of Eurasia
travels of Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo
gradual nomadic Turkic conquest of fragmented Abbasid
Caliphate (including Persia, Baghdad, Byzantine Emp.)
Crusades
Black Death
rise of Aztec and Inca empires
new labor systems: feudal serfs, mit'a (Inca Empire)

Key Concepts

Expansion and intensification of trade, communication, and
exchange networks: Silk Roads, Trans-Saharan caravan
routes, Mediterranean and Indian Ocean sea lanes
Continuity and innovation of state (political units) forms and
interactions: Islamic Caliphate; Sui, Tang, and Song dyn-
asties; Byzantine, Aztec, & Inca empires; Delhi Sultanate
Increased economic production and its consequences:
Champa rice, chinampas, Andes terracing, horse collar
Chinese, Persian, and Indian textiles and porcelain
Indian dhows, Song China iron and steel production

Continuities

patriarchy – regional inequality increased
Bantu and Polynesian migrations
European and Japanese feudalism
major cities centers of trade, culture, political administration
slavery
transregional trade, interactions, and exchanges
Chinese cultural patterns and dynastic cycle
nomadic – complex urban societies interactions: trade, conflict
mixture of African agricultural, nomadic, and urban cultures
continuing Polynesian migrations to Oceania

Changes

- **Classical Empires**
 - Persia (Achaemenids) (550-323 BCE)
 - Alexander → Hellenism (323-146 BCE)
 - Rome (1st century BCE to 400s CE)
 - Qin and Han Dynasty (200s BCE - 200s CE)
 - Maurya and Gupta India
- **How are empires ruled?**
 - Centralization, infrastructure, military
 - Cities!
- **New belief systems**
 - Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity
 - Confucianism and Daoism
 - Hinduism and Buddhism
 - Greco-Roman philosophy
- **Interregional trade networks (technology – syncretism)**
 - Silk Road
 - Indian Ocean
 - Trans-Saharan
 - Mediterranean Sea
- **Migrations**
 - Aryan migrations (up to 1500 BCE)
 - Germanic migrations (100s-500s CE)
 - Bantu migrations
 - SE Asians through Polynesia

Unit 2: 600 BCE to 600 CE

Continuities

- Patriarchy
- Political centralization
- Interregional interaction

Unit 2: 600 BCE – 600 CE



Classical States & Empires

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ■ Persian Empires (Achaemenid, Parthian, Sassanid) | ■ Moche | ■ Phoenicia & its colonies |
| ■ Qin & Han Empire | ■ Maurya & Gupta Empires | ■ Roman Empire |
| ■ Hellenistic Empire | ■ Maya city-states | ■ Greek city-states & colonies |

Ancient Greek Empire



Roman Empire



Qin (221-206 BCE) and Han Dynasty (206 BCE to 222 CE) China



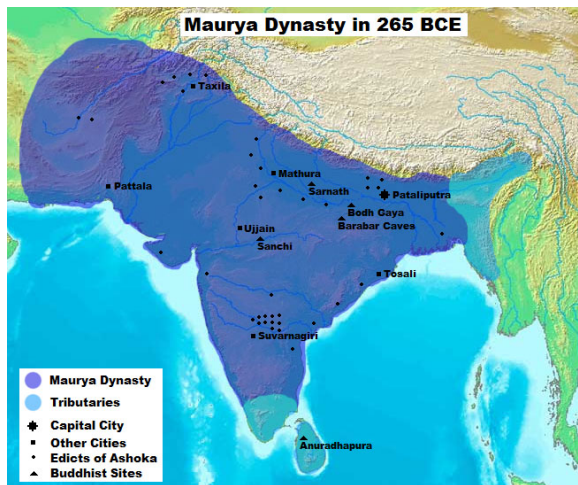
Map 4.1 The Persian Empire
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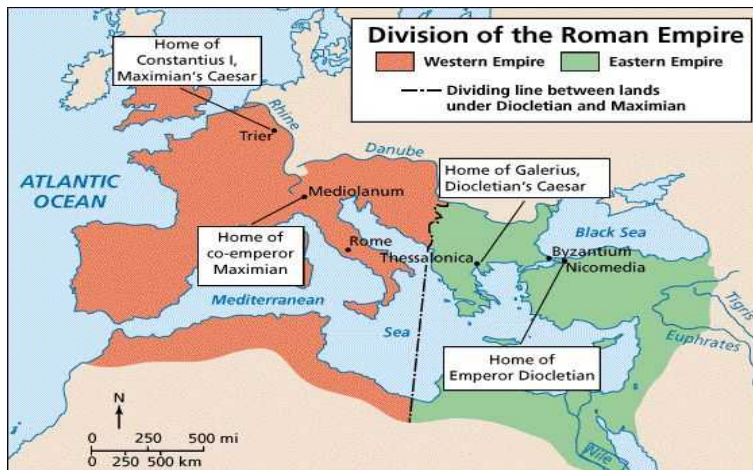


Map 4.5 Classical China
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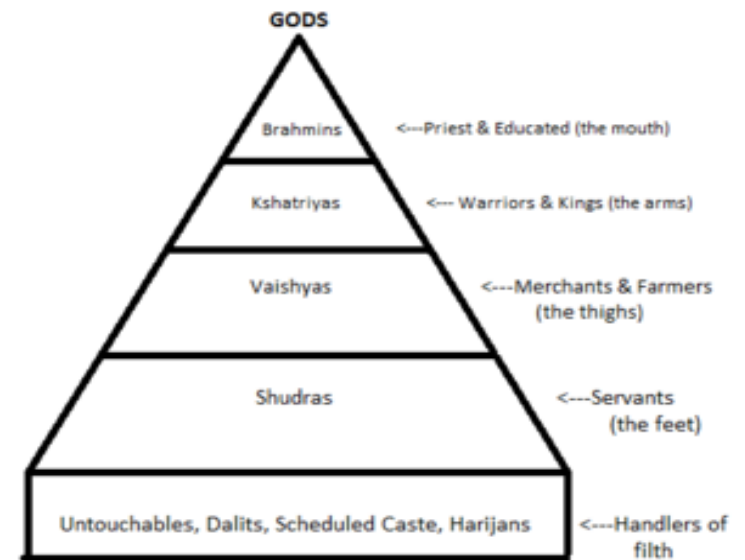
The **Qin** Dynasty and its administrative regions. Each region was subdivided and placed into the bureaucratic chain that enabled the emperor to have his hand in every area of the empire

Han Dynasty is responsible for some very important innovations that would have a lasting effect on China: the official adoption of Confucianism and the rise of the **civil service examinations**.





MAP 12.2 The spread of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity, 200 B.C.E.-400 C.E.



Classical civilizations

1. Major political developments in China, India, and the Mediterranean
 - A. Social and gender structures
 - B. Major trading patterns within and among Classical civilizations; contacts with adjacent regions
 - C. Arts, sciences, and technology
2. Major belief systems
 - . Basic features of major world belief systems prior to 600 C.E. and where each belief system applied by 600 C.E.
 - A. Polytheism, Hinduism, Judaism, Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, Christianity

Late Classical period (200 C.E.–600 C.E.)

1. Collapse of empires (Han China, loss of western portion of the Roman Empire, Gupta)
 - A. Movements of peoples (Huns, Germans)
 - B. Interregional networks by 600 C.E.: Trade and religious diffusion

Major Comparisons and Snapshots

- Comparisons of the major religious and philosophical systems including some underlying similarities in cementing a social hierarchy, e.g., Hinduism contrasted with Confucianism
- Role of women in different belief systems -- Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, and Hinduism
- Understanding of how and why the collapse of empire was more severe in western Europe than it was in the eastern Mediterranean or in China
- Compare the caste system to other systems of social inequality devised by early and classical civilizations, including slavery
- Compare societies and cultures that include cities with pastoral and nomadic societies
- Compare the development of traditions and institutions in major civilizations, e.g., Indian, Chinese, and Greek
- Describe interregional trading systems, e.g., the Indian Ocean trade

Examples of What You Need to Know

- Nature of the Neolithic revolution, but not characteristics of previous stone ages, e.g., Paleolithic and Mesolithic
- Economic and social results of the agricultural revolution, but not specific date of the introduction of agriculture to specific societies
- Nature of patriarchal systems, but not changes in family structure within a single region
- Nature of early civilizations, but not necessarily specific knowledge of more than two
- Importance of the introduction of bronze and iron, but not specific inventions or implements
- Political heritage of classical China (emperor, bureaucracy), but not specific knowledge of dynastic transitions, e.g., from Qin to Han
- Greek approaches to science and philosophy, including Aristotle, but not details about other specific philosophers
- Diffusion of major religious systems, but not the specific regional forms of Buddhism or Aryan or Nestorian Christianity

The Collapse of the Classical Civilizations

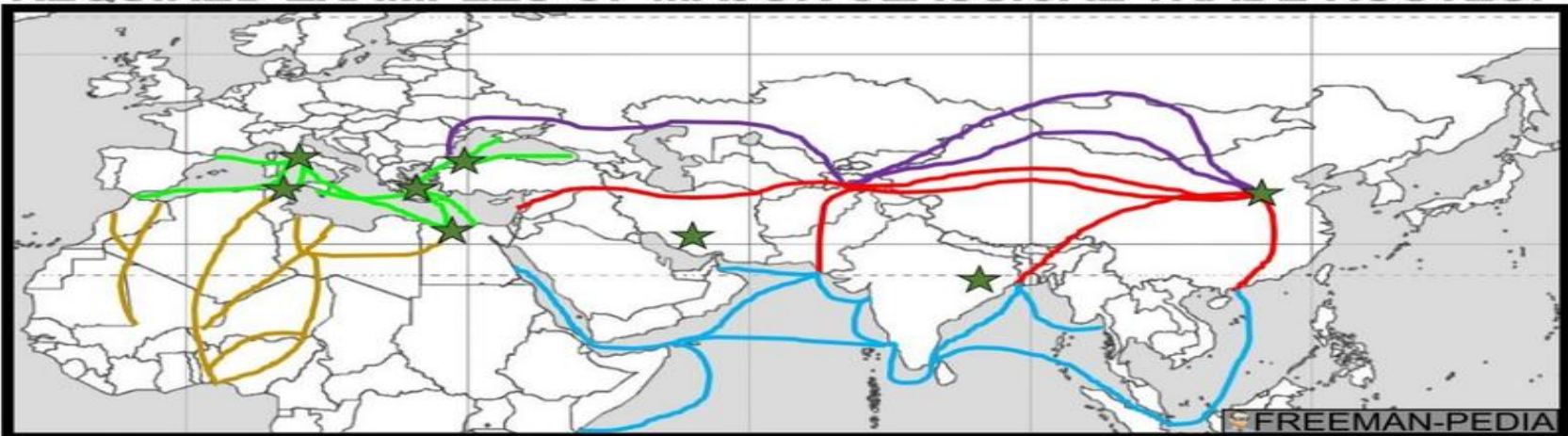
The Roman, Han, Maurya and Gupta empires created political, cultural and administrative difficulties that they could not manage, which eventually led to their decline, collapse and transformation into successor empires or states.

Between 200 and 600 C.E. all of the classical civilizations had fallen (the Han around 220, Western Rome in 476, and the Gupta in 550). There are several elements in common to the fall of these civilizations:

- **Political corruption and deterioration** - The politics of all classical ages became corrupt and given over to factions and divisions. Bribery and favoritism were rife. Provinces came under the control of local leaders and empires decentralized.
- **The migration of the Huns** - Droughts in central Asia forced a nomadic group called the **Huns** to migrate south and west during this time period. This brought them in contact with the settled classical civilizations. They placed pressure on the Han and Gupta, attacking their frontiers and raiding their lands. As they pushed westward, they forced Germanic peoples to put pressure on the Roman Empire.
- **Over-extension of borders** - All empires found that their borders had grown so large that their military had trouble guarding them. Their imperial ambition out-stripped their resources. The Chinese could not effectively man the Great Wall with soldiers to keep out the Huns. Rome grew so large they could not raise the armies to protect its frontiers.
- **The spread of epidemics and disease** - The trade routes that connected civilizations and allowed them to prosper also spread diseases. Han China and Rome lost thousands to disease, thus depleting their tax base just as they needed fund to protect their borders.

Route	Description	What traded?	Who participated?	Cultural diffusion
Silk Road	Overland from western China to the Mediterranean Trade made possible by development of a camel hybrid capable of long dry trips	From west to east - horses, alfalfa, grapes, melons, walnuts From east to west - silk, peaches, apricots, spices, pottery, paper	Chinese, Indians, Parthians, central Asians, Romans Primary agents of trade - central Asian nomads	Chariot warfare, the stirrup, music, diversity of populations, Buddhism and Christianity, wealth and prosperity (particularly important for central Asian nomads)
Indian Ocean Trade	By water from Canton in China to Southeast Asia to India to eastern Africa and the Middle East; monsoon-controlled	Pigments, pearls, spices, bananas and other tropical fruits	Chinese, Indians, Malays, Persians, Arabs, people on Africa's east coast	Lateen sail (flattened triangular shape) permitted sailing far from coast Created a trading class with mixture of cultures, ties to homeland broken
Saharan Trade	Points in western Africa south of the Sahara to the Mediterranean; Cairo most important destination Camel caravans	Salt from Sahara to points south and west Gold from western Africa Wheat and olives from Italy Roman manufactured goods to western Africa	Western Africans, people of the Mediterranean Berbers most important agents of trade	Technology of the camel saddle - important because it allowed domestication and use of the camel for trade
Sub-Saharan Trade	Connected Africans south and east of the Sahara to one another; connected in the east to other trade routes	Agricultural products, iron weapons	Diverse peoples in sub-Saharan Africa	Bantu language, "Africanity"

REQUIRED EXAMPLES OF MAJOR CLASSICAL TRADE ROUTES:



■ EURASIAN ■ SILK ROADS ■ TRANS-SAHARAN
 ■ INDIAN OCEAN ■ MEDITERRANEAN SEA



- Huns help weaken the Roman Empire under Attila
- White Huns invade India during the Gupta Empire
- Huns (Xiongnu) invade Han Dynasty (Mulan)

THE LATE CLASSICAL ERA: THE FALL OF EMPIRES (200 TO 600 CE)

Recall that all of the river-valley civilization areas experienced significant decline and/or conquest in the time period around 1200 BCE. A similar thing happened to the classical civilizations between about 200 and 600 CE, and because the empires were larger and more connected, their fall had an even more significant impact on the course of world history. Han China was the first to fall (around 220 CE), then the Western Roman Empire (476 CE), and finally the Gupta in 550 CE.

SIMILARITIES

Several common factors caused all three empires to fall:

- Attacks from the Huns - The Huns were a nomadic people of Asia that began to migrate south and west during this time period. Their migration was probably caused by drought and lack of pasture, and the invention and use of the stirrup facilitated their attacks on all three established civilizations.
- Deterioration of political institutions - All three empires were riddled by political corruption during their latter days, and all three suffered under weak-willed rulers. Moral decay also characterized the years prior to their respective falls.
- Protection/maintenance of borders - All empires found that their borders had grown so large that their military had trouble guarding them. A primary example is the failure of the Great Wall to keep the Huns out of China. The Huns generally just went around it.
- Diseases that followed the trade routes - Plagues and epidemics may have killed off as much as half of the population of each empire.

DIFFERENCES

Even though the empires shared common reasons for their declines, some significant differences also may be seen.

- The Gupta's dependence on alliances with regional princes broke down, exhibiting the tendency toward political fragmentation on the Indian subcontinent.
- Rome's empire lasted much longer than did either of the other two. The Roman Empire also split in two, and the eastern half endured for another 1000 years after the west fell.
- The fall of empire affected the three areas in different ways.

- The fall of the Gupta probably had the least impact, partly because political unity wasn't the rule anyway, and partly because the traditions of Hinduism and the caste system (the glue that held the area together) continued on after the empire fell.

-The fall of the Han Dynasty was problematic for China because strong centralized government was in place, and social disorder resulted from the loss of authority. However, dynastic cycles that followed the dictates of the Mandate of Heaven were well defined in China, and the Confucian traditions continued to give coherence to Chinese society.

- The most devastating fall of all occurred in Rome. Roman civilization depended almost exclusively on the ability of the government and the military to control territory. Even though Christianity emerged as a major religion, it appeared so late in the life of the empire that it provided little to unify people as Romans after the empire fell. Instead, the areas of the empire fragmented into small parts and developed

Sample Essay Question (2010) Compare/Contrast Essay

Analyze similarities and differences in methods of imperial administration in TWO of the following empires.

- Han China (206 BCE – 220 CE)
- Mauryan/Gupta India (320 BCE – 550 CE)
- Imperial Rome (31 BCE – 476 CE)

Sample Response:

Han China from 206 BCE to 220 CE and Imperial Rome from 31 BCE to 476 CE both emphasized the family unit and the authority of parents, and both had an unstable border situation that inevitably led to their downfall. However, Rome and China had two very different political systems, manners in which they dealt with their borders, views on society as a whole, and religions.

The political differences of the two empires can be attributed to differences in society and culture. In China, Confucianism was the ideology that dictated everything. Confucianism emphasized family, and society was viewed as a family unit. This combined with the importance of filial piety created a very centralized, close knit political system. In Rome, the religion and ideology was much less centralized. The Romans, unlike the Han, did not emphasize that all of their subjects should have the same culture or ideology. Although the family was close knit under the authority of the paterfamilias, there was less emphasis on the whole society as a collective group. As a result, the Roman political system was less centralized.

In China the empire was ruled by an emperor who ruled based on the Mandate of Heaven. The situation was relatively stable and there was less emphasis on expansion. Rather, China sought to maintain its borders and occasionally trade for commodities it desired, such as Central Asian horses. On the other hand, Rome emphasized conquest and expansion. The emphasis on conquest put a huge drain on Rome's resources and manpower.

Both empires had unstable borders and were surrounded by dangerous enemies. However, Han China dealt with the Xiongnu through tribute system, thus placating them with gifts and avoiding costly and expensive warfare which Rome preferred when dealing with their enemies. Also, both empires had significant technology, organization, and armies, albeit very different ones. Rome excelled at battle tactics, military organization, and had good shields, armor, and horses. Han China experimented with gunpowder, used the longbow, and obtained high quality horses from their neighbors.

Ultimately, both empires fell, due to the cost of keeping such as extensive empire, as well as the energy they focused on maintaining borders.

Unit 5

Western Europe

- French Revolution: 1789-1799
- Napoleonic Wars: 1799-1815
- Liberalism, Nationalism, feminism spread
- Industrial Revolution begins in Britain, late 1700s
- Industrialization spreads elsewhere in 1800s
- Middle class benefits the most
- Socialism becomes popular among working class
- W. Europe becomes most advanced, wealthiest part of world
- Germany unifies, becomes a power
- New Imperialism: inspired by economic gain, Social Darwinism, nationalism, civilizing mission
- Europe remains an imperialist power

Eastern Europe

- Crimean War, 1856
- Russia ends serfdom and industrializes quickly
- No reform for peasants, working class
- Czar remains autocratic
- Marxism becomes popular among working class
- Russo-Japanese War: 1905
- 1905 Revolution: fails to make any changes
- SE Europe (Balkans): independence from Ottoman Empire

Middle East & North Africa

- Ottoman Empire becomes weaker
- Conservativ Janissaries were purged
- Tanzimat: 1839 - Western style reforms
- Tanzimat changes army, schools, but industrialization stays behind Euro
- Ottoman Sultans remain autocratic
- 1856: Crimean War: Ott. Becomes dependent on Fr. And Brit.
- Unequal treaties with Euro
- North Africa: become Euro colonies
- Young Turks takeover gov't in 1908
 - Constitutional gov't
 - Turkish nationalism forces language on non-Turks
 - Arab nationalism fights against the Turks

East Asia

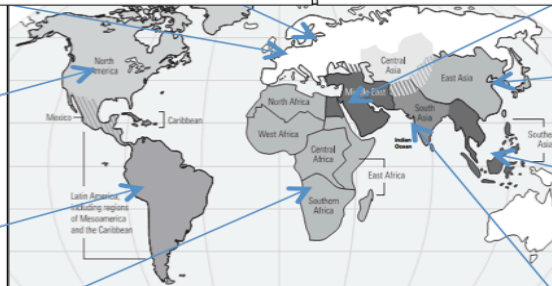
- China
- Qing Dynasty gets weaker and collapses in 1911
 - Overpopulation
 - Canton System: forced open by Brit during Opium Wars
 - Unequal treaties with West
 - Trade surplus turns into trade deficit because of imports from Euro
 - Very limited industrialization: Self-strengthening movement
 - Chinese nationalism begins against West and Qing
 - Taiping Rebellion
 - Boxer Rebellion
 - Warlords begin civil war in 1900s

Japan

- Black Ships arrive: 1853
- Unequal treaties
- Meiji Restoration: 1868
 - Daimyo overthrow Tokugawa dynasty
- Constitution
- Gov't-directed industrialization
 - Zaibatsu
- Becomes a major power
- Imperialism: Russo-Japanese war and invasion of Korea and China

North America

- American Revolution: 1775-1781
- Creates liberal republic
- Civil war: Slavery abolished in 1865
- Industrialization
- USA becomes largest producer by 1914
- Monroe Doctrine: USA dominates Western Hemisphere



Latin America & Caribbean

- Independence from Sp. and Port.: early 1800s
- Slavery abolished
- Little constitutional gov't, dominated by creole elites and military strongmen
- No industrialization
- Produce raw materials and natural resources for export to industrial nations
 - "Banana republics"
 - Worker immigration from Asia
- Remained dependent on foreign financing and investment by industrial nations
- Little improvement for peasants and non-whites
- 1910: Mexican Revolution begins
 - Nationalism, regained local control over resources
 - Constitution
 - Land reform

Sub-Saharan Africa

- Become Euro colonies
- Some positive improvements, but still limitations imposed by Euro
- No industrialization – industrial goods imported from Euro.
- Produced raw materials and resources for Euro
- Shift to cash crop production, sometimes through forced labor
- Some protectorates, some direct conquest by Euro
- Some improvements in quality of life and infrastructure based on Euro investment
- Christianity starts to gain popularity
- Extreme racism by Euro – **Apartheid** in SA
- Nationalism grows in response to colonialism

South Asia

- Colonized by Brit. EIC
- 1857: Sepoy Rebellion leads to direct control by Brit. Gov't
- ICS controls some of India directly, other sections were protectorates
- Some positive social reforms, but still limitations imposed by Brit.
- Still extreme discrimination: caste system
- Shift to cash crop production, sometimes forced
- Little to no industrialization: industrial goods imported from Euro ruins local industries
- Indian nationalism begins in response to Brit control
- India National Congress: pan-Indian unity
- Muslim League: wanted separate Muslim independence
- Emigration to SE Asia and America for work

Southeast Asia & Oceania

- Colonized by Euro
- Siam (Thailand) remains independent
- Australia and NZ: natives mostly die off, were replaced by Europeans
- No industrialization
- Materials and resources exports
- Shift to more cash crop production, sometimes forced
- Immigration from India and China